

A  
LETTER

FROM

Or----- in the Shades,

TO HIS

R----- I H-----s.

THE

D---e of C-----d

I N

F L A N D E R S.

L O N D O N:

Printed for 'J. Jones, in St. Paul's Church Yard'



A Letter to his R---l H---s the D---s of  
C,,,,,,d, in Flanders.

From the Elysian Fields, April 29, 1745.

**V**ALOUR, 'tis true is still pretty much in esteem with the common people, but surely your R---l H---s will think it beneath your high birth and station (both as the son of a great k---g, and as captain general of the army of the Allies) to court the applause of the vulgar, who know as little of these abstruse matters, as the k---g of P---a knows of his own interest. Fighting, is by the adepts in the science, utterly excluded out of the modern art of war, and is seldom, if ever, found to be the consequence of my declarations, levies, armaments, &c. All that wise and experienced persons now a days expected from a General, is that he should thoroughly understand the arts and mysteries of marching, counter-marching, foraging, going into winter quarters, to be tender of his soldiers and never, if it can possibly be avoided, to hazard the loss of their lives, by rashly exposing them to the sword of the enemy. These accomplishments, it is hoped, your R. H. will soon become master of, and consequently possess'd of every necessary quality to form and compleat the character of a true (modern) British commander; and to convince  
your



your R. H. that I am not singular in my notions, there needs no more than to look back into the visible maxims and practice of every general who has had the command of an English army, since the days of that singular, old fashion'd hero, the duke of Marlborough.

But it is already whispered about, in these regions, that your R. H. intends to break at once through all that good order and security which the troops under your command have so long continued in, and, in short, that you resolve upon immediate action. Some give out that your R. H. is actually preparing to form sieges, others assert that the enemy are to be engaged in a pitched battle; and others again are no less positive that they are to be attacked in their trenches: but, let the manner be how it will, I hope your R. H. is not in earnest; such a resolution would in one year if executed, produce more mischief than the political cabinet would be able to rectify in twenty. But if this report should however prove true, yet I hope this epistle will be sufficient to dissuade your R. H. from entering upon such dangerous schemes, and exposing yourself, and the poor harmless allies, to those embarrassments and terrors which they once underwent at Dettingen, and which every body then present, except yourself and your r—l F—r, must certainly tremble to think of.

Nothing is more uncertain than the fortune of war; who then would venture their all upon the success of a battle? Your R. H. was an eye-witness of the loss which the French sustained at Dettingen. The blood that was spilt upon that occasion might have been every drop of it saved, had M. de Noailles remained quiet on the other side the Mayne.

I could bring innumerable instances, from antient and modern history, of kingdoms, empires, states, great armies, great generals ruined by an inconsiderate pursuit of what they called glory; but where do we read, or when do we hear of any such terrible effects produced by patience, and keeping the passions and resentments under a due restraint? Besides 'tis a common observation, that passionate and hasty people are apt to tire and spend their vigour betimes, and thereby the weaker often gains an advantage over the stronger.

The British soldiers are now so well practiced in the science of sitting still, that they are confessedly superior, in their own way, to any other troops in the world; and, in order to improve this advantage to the utmost, your R. H. has nothing to do, but to let the enemy alone in full liberty to follow their own mad projects, and in a few years more the must infallibly ruin themselves. Vivacity is their peculiar Province, and it would be Folly to engage them at their own Weapons. But, if your R. H. should be tempted to an engagement with them, in which I doubt not but the superior courage and good conduct of genius like yours, will be sufficient to carry the victory, yet, even in that case, your R. H. will not be a gainer: Few battles are fought in which the victors do not lose a considerable number of men, besides waisting a great quantity powder and ball; which unnecessary expence may be easily avoided, by a strict adherence to those salutary maxims already pointed out in this epistle. Besides which, your troops will have the happiness of sleeping in a whole skin, and remaining undisturbed spectators of the fatigues, and losses of the enemy, who must every day diminish in their Numbers, by sickness and desertion; and when your R. H. has sufficiently wearied and ~~and~~ <sup>will</sup> to heavy a war, there is no doubt but they will be glad to come to any terms of accommodation with the allies: And that this will infallibly be the consequence, I hope your R. H. is by this time fully convinced. But if it is yet necessary to add any more arguments to corroborate what has been said, I shall not fail to give your R. H. all the satisfaction in my Power, In the mean I earnestly intreat your R. H. not to be offended at the liberty I have taken in laying before you my thoughts on a posubject of so much importance to your R. H. and to the whole kingdom of Great Britain. I am,

Your Royal Highness's

most obedient, and

faithful Servant, (after Death)

W---P---LE

F F N I S.